

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (original): A surface coating film for at least partially covering a surface, said coating film comprised of a plurality of nonphotoactive nanoparticles which are present in an amount less than 3  $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$  of the area of the surface.

Claim 2 (original): The film of Claim 1 wherein at least some of said nanoparticles comprise a synthetic mineral.

Claim 3 (original): The film of Claim 1 wherein at least some of said nanoparticles comprise smectite.

Claim 4 (original): The film of Claim 1 wherein at least some of said nanoparticles comprise hectorite.

Claim 5 (original): The film of Claim 1 wherein at least some of said nanoparticles comprise fluorohectorite.

Claim 6 (original): The film of Claim 1 optionally containing a non-functional level of binder material.

Claim 7 (original): The film of Claim 1 containing less than 3% peptizer.

Claim 8 (original): The film of Claim 1 consisting essentially of nanoparticles, a wetting agent, and water.

Claim 9 (original): The film of Claim 1 which is substantially continuous.

Claim 10 (original): The film of Claim 1 which is transparent.

Claim 11 (original): The film of Claim 1 having an exposed first surface and a second surface adjacent the surface to which it is applied, wherein said first surface of said film is hydrophilic.

Claim 12 (original): The film of Claim 1 which is less than 300 nanometers thick.

Claims 13-23 (withdrawn).

Claim 24 (original): A surface coating film for at least partially covering a surface, said coating film comprised of a plurality of nonphotoactive nanoparticles and water, said film having a water content of less than or equal to about 4%.

Claim 25 (original): The film of Claim 24 which is less than 300 nanometers thick.

Claims 26-31 (withdrawn).